CYBER: A GROWING AND PERSISTENT THREAT

AS our world becomes more digitally interconnected, securing our Nation's networks, communications, and data is exponentially more challenging. While the Internet has become an engine for social change and economic prosperity, it has also introduced new cybersecurity vulnerabilities, threats, and targets for hacktivists, criminal elements, as well as our Nation's adversaries.

The threat actors that engage in targeted, malicious cyber attacks against the U.S. continue to expand and evolve, defeating security measures and detection technology, invalidating conventional analysis, and challenging existing reliability and safety design methods. In today's environment, the malicious cyber actor has the advantage, as the cost to attack a system is only a fraction of the cost to defend it.

The evolving nature of the cyber threat compels us to work together and coordinate action at the public, private, national, regional and state levels to optimize technology. Technological advancement is outpacing security, and it requires a concerted effort to combat. The same cyber actors that threaten defense networks can also have a significant impact on critical infrastructure, such as the energy and financial services sectors.

The cybersecurity threat is real, and addressing the complexities of cybersecurity requires a team approach. ■